

CHILD CARE LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

11 March 2010

Cannon Health Building
228 North 1460 West Room 125
Salt Lake City, Utah

Members Present: Dale Smith, David Rothschild, Carol Thompson, Pat Morino, Leslie Hjorth, Diane Wilkinson, Heide Radeke and Joni Hemond

Members Excused: Michael Libeck, Jodi Jensen, Julie Shakib and Ed Dieringer

Members Absent: Carolyn Miller

Department of Health and Bureau Staff Present: Dr. Marc Babitz, Teresa Whiting, Simon Bolivar, Donna Thomas, Wendee Pippy, Joyce Hastings, Karrie Phillips, and Sherri Lizotte

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Once a quorum of members were present, the minutes from January 14, 2010 were amended and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

One Year Implementation Review of Home Provider Rules

Ms. Whiting reported that input from the home providers on the rules has been received.

Ms. Phillips has received the input and is compiling the information to bring for discussion to the next Advisory Committee meeting on May13, 2010.

Coordinating Center and Out of School Time Rules

Ms. Whiting reported that Ms. Hasting has been comparing the center and out-of-school time rules to find the differences in rules relating to the care of school-age children. This information will be brought to the next Advisory Committee meeting on May13, 2010 for discussion.

After the Advisory Committee reviews this information and makes recommendations for rule changes, if there are rule changes, there will be a public comment period and all providers will be notified of this.

Update on Quality Recognition Program

Ms. Rasmussen from OCC reported on the collaborative Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) project between the Department of Workforce Services and the Department of Health. Ms. Rasmussen gave the definition of QRIS that is used by the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center in association with the U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. Ms. Rasmussen gave the task and time line for phase one of this project. Ms. Rasmussen estimated that phase one of the project should be ready to implement in the spring or summer of 2011.

Mr. Smith inquired about what other states are doing as part of their Quality Rating System. Ms. Rasmussen stated that there is a broad range of rating systems. Oregon bases their rating system on licensing findings; Tennessee uses a child care environment scale and observations; and Colorado has created a non-profit organization that give stars and monetary awards. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the statewide team will develop a system and then refine the system based on public comment. On Thursday, April 1, 2010 there will be a webinar workshop for the QRIS program. Anyone who is interested can go to the DWS office on April 1st at noon or access the website for more information at: nccic.acf.hhs.gov.

Mr. Scott Nielsen, owner of Tender Touch, stated that he is very interested in this program and would like to have someone do site visits to see what actually happens during child care hours.

Ms. Wilkinson suggested that anyone who is interested in being part of the QRIS team attend meetings and have a voice in the process.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Whiting stated that at the last Advisory Committee meeting there was a suggestion from the committee to have a rule for home providers requiring them to tell parents that there are firearms in the home. Ms. Whiting discussed this with the attorneys for the Department of Health and they told her that such a rule would violate several statutes.

Mr. Rothschild recommended that the Parent's Guide state that firearms are permitted as per state law and that a parent might want to inquire if there are firearms on site.

Ms. Hjorth recommended that the Parent's Guides have a broad range of what a parent might want to ask concerning, firearms, medication, animals, locks on fences or anything that might be a hazard.

After discussion by the committee members present, Ms. Wilkinson made a motion to not pursue a rule change in this area. Mr. Marino seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Smith read a statement from a provider who would like the Advisory Committee to meet at a different time to accommodate those providers who cannot now attend. This provider

suggested having meetings in the evenings or on Saturdays. Ms. Whiting reminded the committee that the Advisory Committee, not the Bureau, sets the time for the meetings.

After discussing the proposal, the committee decided that the meeting time will not change but the minutes will be e-mailed to committee members a week after the meeting. Once approved, the minutes will go on the Bureau's web page. This will make the minutes available to the public before the next meeting, so that they can submit comments.

Mr. Marino brought for discussion, two center rules: R430-100-11(6) and R430-100-11(3). He wanted to know if there is a better way to balance the mixed age groups. Mr. Smith asked if the Bureau could research other state's rules for mixed age groups. Ms. Whiting stated that the Bureau will do the research and bring the information to the advisory meeting on May, 13, 2010.

Mr. Rothschild read his first draft to add a slope restriction to R430-100-6 outdoor play areas. He proposed that a certain percentage of outdoor areas cannot have more than a 20% slope and explained two different methods for determining slope. Mr. Marino stated that his center just put in a nature center that has mounds that may exceed a 20% slope. Mr. Rothschild stated that his intention is to restrict the slope of the majority of the outdoor play area, not specific features such as this. Mr. Smith asked Ms. Whiting if the Bureau would research the rules regarding usable outdoor space in other states. Ms. Whiting stated the Bureau will research and bring the information to the advisory meeting on May, 13, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.